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SOURCE Promyshlennost' Stroitel'nykh Materialov.

URAL CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS INDUSTRY DEVELOPS;
ASBESTOS MINING ENTERPRISES CRITICIZED

[Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.]

Towns of the eastern Transural, including Asbest, Sukhoy Log, Bogdanovich, Kamyshlov, and Talitsa, may be compared to workshops of a huge construction materials combine. This area has the largest asbestos mines of the country, and plants of this region produce cement, slate, glass, prefabricated houses, asbestos board, and asbestos pipes. During the past 4 years, the industry in this area has expanded and the population has grown. Asbestos mining is steadily developing and modern techniques have been introduced in mines and plants.

Sukhoy Log, in the vicinity of Asbest, has a number of important plants. The asbestos pipe plant in this town produces large quantities of roofing slate. Sukhoy Log cement plants have produced thousands of tons of cement for Ural construction projects. Housing construction in this town is progressing.

Several new towns and workers' settlements have grown up in the Transural during the past few years. The town of Bogdanovich is the center of an industrial area producing refractories and ceramic construction materials. This region has deposits of the best types of Ural clay. (1)

The asbestos industry operated successfully during 1949, but several enterprises of "Asboruda" (Asbestos Ore) Trust and "Soyuzasbest" (Trust of Main Administration of Industrial Construction under Ministry of Construction of Heavy Industry Enterprises) have recently relaxed their efforts. As a result, asbestos mines fell short of producing a large quantity of raw material during January 1950. A similar situation prevailed in concentrating plants.

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Many enterprises in Asbest were not sufficiently prepared for the winter. Most of the mines had no heated rooms for the miners. No preparations had been made for snow removal. Snow drifts halted the operation of rolling equipment. The available snowplow had not been repaired and the tracks had to be cleaned by hand. Nothing had been done to provide heat for excavators and electric locomotives. Only in January they were provided with electric heaters.

Manager Pashkin and chief engineer Tutov of the "Asboruda" Trust had not taken steps to prepare sufficient reserves of asbestos ore for mining. In December, blast workers did not have a sufficient area of operation. Forty blast foremen had to be transferred to other work sectors. In January, drilling machines stood idle because of the lack of workers and there was a shortage of blasted rock.

When the frosts and snowdrifts set in, none of the factories had any dry ore. In January, the ore received for processing was moist and partly covered with snow. It was not dried sufficiently and clogged up the screens. This caused numerous breakdowns of machinery.

Labor norms in asbestos mines have been greatly neglected. The norms for mining brigades, established in 1937, have not been revised in the past 13 years and no longer correspond to existing conditions. (2)

SOURCES

1. Promyshlennost' Stroitel'nykh Materialov, No 5, 27 Jan 50
2. Promyshlennost' Stroitel'nykh Materialov, No 8, 17 Feb 50

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